

The President. Well, let me say in my State the public health department does 85 percent of the immunizations done. I'm very proud of that. And there are a lot of Southern States that, because of our legacy of poverty, have had to develop very elaborate public health networks. So this is something that we've been sensitive to for a long time.

I've also been interested in buying the vaccinations. But everything that I've done on public health since—well, ever since we got into public life, Hillary's been a part of. So she's been pushing this, but so has Secretary Shalala. I don't know who to give credit to. But I don't care who you give credit to, as long as we get it done.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. at the Arlington County Career Center.

Nominations of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretaries of Commerce

February 13, 1993

The President today announced his choices for four top leadership positions at the Department of Commerce, expressing his intention to nominate:

James Baker to be Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere;

Doug Hall to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere;

Sheila Anthony to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs;

Larry Irving to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information.

Baker and Hall will serve as the Director and Deputy Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), one of the Federal Government's key environmental research agencies.

"Secretary Ron Brown is putting together a superb leadership team at the Department of Commerce," said President Clinton. "I am looking forward to working with them to turn Commerce into one of our administration's most vital agencies."

"We have found the perfect balance to lead NOAA," the President added. "With Jim Baker and Doug Hall, we have a team that will bring great scientific skills, laboratory

management experience, a strong commitment to environmental protection, and the savvy required to deal effectively with sensitive issues."

As Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Clarence L. (Larry) Irving will direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). "One of the most important missions that I have charged the Commerce Department with is nurturing the key industries of the future, in areas like telecommunications," said the President. "Larry Irving has a clear vision for turning telecommunications innovations into high skill, high wage jobs."

"In addition," said President Clinton, "with his experience on Capitol Hill, Larry will be invaluable in moving legislation swiftly through the Congress. He will be joined in that effort by Sheila Anthony, someone with the political and management experience to strengthen the lines of communication between Commerce and Capitol Hill. I am so pleased to have a native of Hope, Arkansas, working closely with Congress to get our plans enacted."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were attached to the press release.

Nomination of James Lee Witt To Be Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

February 12, 1993

President Clinton today announced his intention to nominate James Lee Witt, the head of Arkansas' State Office of Emergency Management and a former county judge, as Director of the Nation's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew last year was a sober reminder that we need to provide strong, organized, and effective help to American families whose lives are dramatically affected by disaster," President Clinton said. "James Lee has done an outstanding job in Arkansas, and I am con-

fidant he will do the same for the country in his new role.”

The director of Arkansas’ chief disaster assistance agency for the past 4 years, Witt was responsible directly to the Governor for all State and local disaster/emergency planning and response and recovery operations. He also served as the Governor’s liaison to the national Director of FEMA. Prior to his tenure as Arkansas State director, Witt served for 10 years as county judge and chief elected official of Yell County, AR.

Witt is a member of the board of directors of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium and sits on subcommittees for international arms reduction projects. He is also a member of the Arkansas Governor’s Task Force on Flood Prevention and the past chairman of the nuclear response advisory board for Arkansas Power and Light Company’s nuclear power plant.

Witt, 49, is married to Lea Ellen Hodges Witt, and they have two sons.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 7

In the afternoon, the President attended a meeting of environmental leaders and a meeting of the President’s Task Force on National Health Care Reform. He then met with economic advisers.

February 8

In the morning, the President participated in a CIA and national security briefing at the White House.

The President appointed Kathleen McGinty as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

February 9

In the morning, the President participated in a CIA and national security briefing at the White House.

February 10

In the morning, the President met with economic advisers and participated in a CIA and national security briefing at the White House.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Detroit, MI. Following the town meeting, the President attended private receptions at WXYZ-TV before returning to Washington, DC.

February 11

In the morning, the President participated in a CIA and national security briefing at the White House.

Later he met with:

- the Washington, DC, Mardi Gras queen;
- the Vice President, for lunch;
- congressional leaders;
- Secretary of State Warren Christopher;
- economic advisers.

In the evening, the President had telephone conversations with President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines and Gov. Mel Carnahan of Missouri.

February 12

In the morning, the President participated in a CIA and national security briefing at the White House.

Later in the morning, the President toured the Fenwick Center health clinic in Arlington, VA, with Hillary Clinton.

After returning to the White House, the President met with Senator Bill Bradley.

In the afternoon, the President met with congressional leaders and later with economic advisers.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.